

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1073

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, AU
SUBJECT: BELGRADE MEETING OF CSCE NEUTRALS AND NON-ALIGNED

1. MFA SOURCES WHO ATTENDED TWO-DAY MEETING OF CSCE NEUTRALS
AND NON-ALIGNED (N-NA) IN BELGRADE JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1,
SAID PARTICIPANTS HAD HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS
ALREADY UNDER REVIEW. NO NEW IDEAS OR PROPOSALS WERE
DEVELOPED OR DISCUSSED. IN FACT, SEPARATE DISCUSSION BY
EXPERTS ON CBMS WAS, CONTRARY TO EARLIER EXPECTATIONS,
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COMPLETELY INCONCLUSIVE. YUGOSLAVS REPORTEDLY WERE
"CIRCUMSPECT, CAREFUL AND CORRECT" DURING TWO-DAY
MEETING, IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER MEETINGS IN WHICH
YUGOSLAVS TOOK MUCH MORE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE.
THIS RETICENCE SEEMED TO GO BEYOND MIDDLE-GROUND
ROLE ASSOCIATED WITH HOSTING MEETING AND TO SUGGEST IN
AUSTRIAN VIEW THAT YUGOSLAV POLICY REGARDING CSCE

MAY BE NOW BIT MORE UNCERTAIN IN VIEW OF RECENT EAST/WEST DEVELOPMENTS.

2. BELGRADE MEETING WORKED THROUGH SIX-POINT AGENDA REGARDING BELGRADE '77 WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS, ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES.

(1) ORGANIZATION OF MEETING. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RULES OF PROCEDURES USED AT GENEVA TALKS SHOULD ALSO APPLY AT BELGRADE MEETINGS.

(2) AGENDA. DISCUSSION DEVELOPED CONSENSUS THAT ISSUE IS HOW AND IF WHICH FORUM TO MAKE REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT WITHOUT AT SAME TIME ENGAGING IN POLEMICAL EXCHANGES. FINNS SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSIONS OF STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL RELATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS IN SECURITY AND EXPANSION OF COOPERATION IN EUROPE BE HELD IN PUBLIC SESSION WHILE ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE AND DISCUSSION OF FURTHER MEASURES TAKE PLACE IN INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONS. NO ENTHUSIASM REPORTEDLY WAS SHOWN FOR THIS SUGGESTION BUT NEITHER WERE ANY OTHER APPROACHES SUGGESTED. IT WAS FELT THAT COMMISSION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO HEAR VIEWS OF MEDITERRANEAN GROUP AND THAT LEBANON AND LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY ALSO WANT TO BE HEARD.

(3) NEW PROPOSALS. PROPOSALS ON CBMS ARE STILL SEEN BY N-NA AS REPRESENTING IMPORTANT ELEMENT FOR BELGRADE MEETING, BUT CONTINUED LACK OF INTEREST OF SOVIET AND EE COUNTRIES AND UNCLEAR SIGNALS FROM WESTERN CAMP
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HAVE LEFT N-NA MARKING TIME ON THIS POINT. MALTA'S POSITION IS ALOS COMPLICATING N-NA STANCE ON CBMS SINCE MALTA DESIRES TO HAVE CBM PROPOSAL CONTAIN SOME REFERENCE TO REDUCTION OF MILITARY SEA POWER IN MEDITERRANEAN.

(4) DOCUMENT. GENERAL ACCORD ACHIEVED THAT DOCUMENT TO BE ISSUED AT END OF BELGRADE MEETING SHOULD BE NOT ONLY TECHNICAL BUT ALSO POLITICAL DOCUMENT. IT COULD CONSIST OF SECTIONS DEALING WITH TECHNICAL MATTERS (DATES, PARTICIPANTS, ETC.), ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT, FURTHER MEASURES AND FOLLOW-UP.

(5) FOLLOW-UP TO BELGRADE. MALTA AND SWITZERLAND CONTINUE TO SHOW MAJOR INTEREST IN ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME SORT OF FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM. MALTA REPORTEDLY DESIRES FOLLOW-UP TO TAKE SOME FORM OF CONTROL MECHANISM WHILE SWITZERLAND FAVORS PERIODICITY OF FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS. FINNS HAVE ALSO REGISTERED INTEREST IN FOLLOW-UP IN FORM OF ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL

CSCE MEETING.

(6) ROLE OF ECE AND UNESCO. SOME SUPPORT,
INCLUDING THAT OF AUSTRIA, WAS REGISTERED FOR USING
ECE AS FORUM TO HANDLE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON THREE
PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES FOR ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND
ENVIRONMENT. LITTLE INTEREST WAS SHOWN IN INVOLVING
UNESCO IN CSCE MATTERS. MEEHAN

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